

Jules D'Onofrio

'Practice what you preach, Jules'

tinted charcoal on paper

Art is the rawest thing about me, it exposes my morals and feelings subconsciously. I draw to make me happy and I draw people who make me happy in some way. It is the one thing I am somewhat proud of. When drawing this piece, there was a complete and utter anger that I experienced because of strong hatred I feel towards myself. It is ironic, how much I care about how others feel about themselves and do everything in my power to try and show them that they are better than they think. Yet, I fail to see any good qualities within myself as reflect in this work. This piece is contradictory to my other portraits, it expresses the hatred towards myself rather than the fond feelings I would usually have when drawing a chosen subject.

Through this charcoal drawing I express myself as I am - my honest feelings about not being good enough - my hair's all messy and I am not smiling, I am angry and sad and numb all at once. I used charcoal with blue hue in it to represent my sadness and depressive self. The square shape and the fact that my image is covering the space represents being trapped within my self-hatred complemented with the black background creates an unsettling vibe as the viewer is forced to stare directly into the eyes of somebody that is in a vulnerable state.

Colour, to me, represents life so the fact that it is colourless apart from the blue reflects how every other part of me seems to fade, dominated by my sadness. The blackness of the background makes the viewer solely look at the portrait - it is unsettling. This piece captures how I view myself as a hypocrite as I try to capture the beautiful parts of others and strengthen them, however, I cannot do that with myself. I find my art opens a dialogue between myself and my subject and viewers and if that is the case I speak very differently to myself than I do to others.

Joshua Miels looks to capture the vulnerability of people and the emotions that people try to hide from others. His pieces challenge viewers to draw upon their own emotions and personal experiences. I wanted to produce a strong piece that was aesthetically pleasing, yet unpleasant to view similar to this artist.

I took interest in E.C.Escher's close up and interestingly cropped portrait. Although his other works are not portraits, I was influenced by his drawing techniques and Accordingly, I attempted to adapt the same techniques they have when using charcoal and created a less extreme cropped portrait.

Reflecting on these works, I have found that others see hidden meanings in my work before I do. This work may reflect my self doubt, but others have found that it also reflects my confidence in my abilities to make a well structure and technical piece of art - as it is the one thing that I'm proud about.

499 words